

REMARKS

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are presented. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 and 26 have been currently amended, no claims have been added, and claims 2, 9, 13 and 17 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which is equivalent to rewriting claim 2 in independent form and including all limitations of the base claim from which it depended as suggested by the Examiner. The amendments to claims 3-7, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 amount to corrections in dependency or redundancy in view of the amendment to claim 1. Claims 9, 13 and 17 are canceled as redundant in view of the amendment to claim 1.

2. Information Disclosure Statement

The references identified in an Information Disclosure Statement have been listed on a separate paper submitted herewith. Applicants request respectfully that the Examiner consider these references and indicate such consideration accordingly by initialing the paper where indicated.

3. Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, mailed July 7, 2004, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,619,771 to Jones, U.S. Patent No. 3,811,220 to Glass, and U.S. Patent No. 4,842,565 to VonPhilip, Sr., and claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,391,106 to Lidert, Jr.

The Examiner has indicated, however, that claims 2-5 and 7-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to address the rejections, the applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2, and canceled claim 2. In so doing, the applicants have amended claim 1 in a manner equivalent to amending claim 2 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which it depends. Accordingly, the art rejections have been overcome and claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance.

The applicants have also amended claims 3-7, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 to correct dependency in view of the amendment to claim 1. As all depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable claim, claims 3-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-20 should also be in condition for allowance.

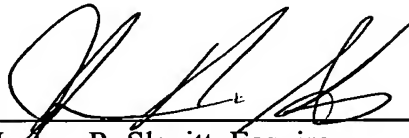
4. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner continue to have any doubts as to the allowability of any of the claims, she is requested respectfully to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss same

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Applicants: Eileen Morris et al.
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before issuing further action, as it is believed such discussion would help to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua R. Slavitt, Esquire
Registration No. 40,816

October 1, 2004
Date

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
2600 ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Telephone: (215) 923-4466
Facsimile: (215) 923-2189

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